

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 1, delete the first full paragraph (lines 11-24) and replace this paragraph with the following:

The present invention relates to a side effect-relieving agent and/or a hypoglycemic effect enhancer for thiazolidine compounds. More particularly, the present invention relates to a side effect-relieving agent for thiazolidine compounds which comprises a crude drug mixture as an active ingredient comprising Ephedrae Herba, Glycyrrhizae Radix and Gypsum Fibrosum each of which is in a form of ground powders, extracts or mixtures of powders and extracts; and a hypoglycemic effect enhancer for thiazolidine compounds which comprises a crude drug mixture as an active ingredient comprising Ephedrae Herba, Glycyrrhizae Radix and Gypsum Fibrosum each of which is in a form of ground powders, extracts or mixtures of powders and extracts.

Page 3, delete the fourth full paragraph (lines 19-26) and replace this paragraph with the following:

As a result of various studies, the present inventors found that a crude drug mixture comprising Ephedrae Herba, Glycyrrhizae Radix and Gypsum Fibrosum each of which is in a form of ground powders, extracts or mixtures of powders and extracts is capable of relieving the side effects of thiazolidine compounds, i.e., body weight gain, and enhancing the hypoglycemic effect of thiazolidine compounds, and they accomplished the present invention.

Page 3, delete the last paragraph (lines 27-36), continuing on page 4, (line 1) and replace this paragraph with the following:

That is, the present invention is a side effect-relieving agent for thiazolidine compounds which comprises a crude drug mixture as an active ingredient comprising Ephedrae Herba, Glycyrrhizae Radix and Gypsum Fibrosum each of which is in a form of ground powders, extracts or mixtures of powders and extracts; and a hypoglycemic effect

enhancer for thiazolidine compounds which comprises a crude drug mixture as an active ingredient comprising Ephedrae Herba, Glycyrrhizae Radix and Gypsum Fibrosum each of which is in a form of ground powders, extracts or mixtures of powders and extracts.

Page 7, delete the third full paragraph (lines 14-20) and replace this paragraph with the following:

A medicament of the present invention comprises, on the basis of 1 part by weight of a thiazolidine compound, 0.1 to 5000 parts by weight, preferably 0.5 to 4000 parts by weight, more preferably 1 to 3000 parts by weight, of a crude drug mixture comprising Ephedrae Herba, Glycyrrhizae Radix and Gypsum Fibrosum each of which is in a form of ground powders, extracts or mixtures of powders and extracts.

Page 9, delete the third full paragraph (lines 25-31) and replace this paragraph with the following:

For the concomitant administration of the medicament of the present invention and a thiazolidine compound, a formulation which contains both a crude drug mixture comprising Ephedrae Herba, Glycyrrhizae Radix and Gypsum Fibrosum each of which is in a form of ground powders, extracts or mixtures of powders and extracts together with a thiazolidine compound can also be prepared and administered.